

The Evening World.

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FOR A STATE MILK COMMISSION.

GOV. SMITH'S Fair Price Milk Committee joins John H. Finley, ex-Gov. Martin H. Glynn, George Gordon Battle, ex-Commissioner Day, Health Commissioner Copeland—all at one time or another investigators of the same subject—in the conclusion that the way to attack the milk problem in New York is to put milk in the public utilities class and establish a State Commission to regulate its handling from the cow to the consumer.

This is the kind of milk regulation The Evening World has been urging for three years. One by one the investigators have fallen in line.

Remains the Legislature. The Governor can be counted on to put in a stiff demand for milk legislation. No opposition from milk interests should prevent the passage early in the coming session of a bill creating a State Milk Commission.

The people of New York have seen investigation after investigation point to the same remedy. They are now entitled to remedy and results.

"THE NEW POOR."

THAT is the name they are known by in England. British newspapers recognize and discuss them as a class. Punch cracks British jokes about them. But the jests are softened by sympathy.

Who are they? They are the people who missed the war favors. They are the people whose baskets remained empty while the baskets of wage-earners on the one hand and war-profits on the other were being filled with plums. They are the people who are now striving to meet a post-war cost of living with pre-war incomes—and seeing their standards of living forced lower and lower in the painful struggle.

They are salaried clerks and accountants, they are widows left with small incomes, they are professional workers once reckoned well-to-do, they are even Bishops—all carrying the load of extra taxes and increased prices without a corresponding increase in earnings or interest.

The New Poor in the United States are equally a class, equally aware of themselves and their plight. They see themselves at a hopeless disadvantage by reason of a spending power newly concentrated in hands for which it is a novelty and an excitement. Efforts to bring down high prices are vain where so many persons whose pockets have been filled almost over night are eager to see how it feels to be extravagant.

Trying to explain the present high prices of clothing, William M. Wood, President of the American Woolen Company, points to "the curiously insistent demand for cloth made from the finest and most expensive wools." It is claimed that more pairs of the same shoes can be sold at \$15 than at \$8. Luxuries sell at any figure.

No wonder the New Poor have to wear their old clothes. No wonder they have to deny themselves the things they used to eat. No wonder they must give up comforts and amusements. No wonder they cannot pay the present price of theatre tickets. What show have they in competition with the spending power that now sets standards?

Neither that spending power nor those standards, however, are proofs of sound prosperity. Prosperity cannot be made and maintained by the lavishness of classes suddenly benefited by a redistribution of wealth. Prosperity is not secured by merely lifting here and there high plateaus of wages and profits at the cost of depressed levels elsewhere.

Pity the New Poor, but don't stop there. They have strong, serious claim to be considered in every economic programme that aims at sound reconstruction.

The New Poor have carried and are still carrying the heaviest burdens of the war. No prosperity is just or real that proposes to maintain itself and grow richer at their expense.

There's one thing to be said for that sunken continent they're looking for in the Pacific. It ducked a lot of trouble.

GET DOWN TO THE ROOTS.

JUDGE MAYER has several novel and engaging suggestions as ciding for his 8-cent fare pill, but the pill is there just the same.

New York read last week that fares on the elevated in Chicago are to be reduced from 7 to 6 cents because earnings are too large to justify the higher charge; while the Detroit United Railways has just withdrawn its request for permission to make a transfer charge, stating that it finds it can operate profitably on a flat 5-cent fare, and even expects to spend \$15,000,000 on improvements without asking for more than the present 5-cent rate.

Can nothing like that happen in New York? If not, has it been conclusively shown why?

The Board of Estimate is said to favor an investigation that shall go twenty years back and disclose exactly how much the present of traction finance in this city is affected by overcapitalization and exorbitant rental charges inherited from the past.

There can be no honest, permanently effective handling of the situation until the heritage is laid bare.

TOWARD A HIGH COURT.

PLANS for a National Industrial Tribunal and Regional Boards of Adjustment evolved by the President's Second Industrial Conference mark at least a commendable effort. The tentative announcement coupled with the request for constructive criticism looking to further improvement speaks well for the frame of mind in which the conferees went to work.

Whatever weakness may develop, the plan, without denying the final right to strike, recognizes at least four highly desirable principles:

First, Through the Regional Boards either side would have an opportunity of getting the merits of its case before the public in a definite and impressive manner without need for the spectacular but economically expensive strike or lockout.

Second, The right of each side "to present its position through representatives of its own choosing" is clearly a sensible compromise on the question which split the First Conference. The employer is not required to negotiate directly with men not in his employ, but when a dispute is up for formal judicial hearing the workers may choose their attorney representative from the ablest talent in the country.

Third, The judicial character of the inquiry would tend to put a premium on the services of the labor advocate and correspondingly decrease the power of the labor agitator. The agitator who plays only on the emotions would have small chance at such a hearing. Facts and logic would play a more potent part.

Fourth, Power to subpoena witnesses and examine books and papers would enable the Regional Boards to advise the public concerning such disputed questions as ability of employers to increase wages, hours and wages actually paid, and questions of comparative production by workers.

These seem to be definite, constructive and progressive policies advocated for general acceptance by the board. Each looks toward an adjustment of industrial disputes on a basis of right and reason rather than of cunning and economic force.

The plan moves in the direction strongly urged by The Evening World, of giving labor its own High Court, where its claims could be adjudicated with the full supporting force of public interest and opinion.

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA.

WINCHESTER, England, has sent its first city flag to its namesake in Virginia as a holiday token of friendship. The gift loses nothing in appreciation because its value is purely sentimental.

Winchester, England, feels in touch with America because it has entertained many A. E. F. visitors. Only comparatively few were from the Virginia town of the same name. The feeling is general but the form of expression will localize and intensify the feeling in the two Winchesters. Doubtless in due time the junior city will find some way of returning the courtesy and so strengthen the tie that binds.

It is rather a pretty example of sentiment. Many a city overseas, in England and on the Continent, has a namesake here well worthy of acquaintance. Why should not the exchange of such courtesies be encouraged as a custom? It is such international social amenities that will help to strengthen the League of Nations by fostering real international friendships.

One may wonder whether news of the presentation was made public during a recess of Congress by accident or by design. It would not be difficult to imagine Senator Jim Reed's apoplectic outburst if he happened to hear that an English flag was on display in an American city. Perhaps the English city was diplomatic as well as friendly.

GOLD COACH OR BOX CAR.

MANY the tales of wild adventure that have come down from the early days of our great Far West. And of them all, is there a greater favorite than the epics of the gold coaches in which the treasure of the mines was transported to the railroads?

In these thrilling tales the romantic characters were the armed express guards who rode the trails on the coaches with nothing to do but outwit or outshoot the covetous bandits and hold-up men who infested the country. Both bandits and guards were brave and resourceful men. They were the real adventurers, armed to the teeth for duel to the death.

Ah, yes! But that was fifty years ago. Civilization and adventure do not mix. Adventure had a place in those days; but not now. Then men were men, and their daily comings and goings were adventure. Adventure now is ancient history.

But is it? Only the other day a railroad train made up of plebeian box cars left Peoria. Trains left Louisville, St. Louis and other interior cities, all bound for the seaboard, all loaded with liquor and—note the entrance of Adventure—all guarded by armed men.

What is the difference between the gold coach guard of the old West and the gin and whiskey guard of the modern East? Not much, except that one lived in ancient history and is covered with the glamour of romance, the other is a matter of the day's news and is probably wearing overalls and wool mittens just as the gold guards did before romance covered them. In fifty years the armed guards of to-day will be telling of their adventurous ride and their grandchildren will appreciate the wonderful tale just as boys now hang on the tale of the gold coaches.

After all, Adventure never dies. There is no end to Romance. It is only that they change their forms and we fail to recognize them.

Happy New Year!



FROM EVENING WORLD READERS

No El Dorado There.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Underlined is a portion of the El Dorado, 91st Street and Central Park West. There are ninety-six families residing there. The total amount of my Merry Christmas amounted to \$1. I will be pleased to give some to any poor person you may suggest. I would be pleased if you would publish this. It might mean a job, but I can always get another through The World. WANTED: A MANUFACTURER.
JAMES ROBINSON.

Explaining the Figures.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Amen your editorial in today's Evening World, under heading "Figures Run to Five," the writer wishes to draw your attention to the fact that the subject covered is not a point in place mathematics, but a point in economics, the workings of which in regard to labor conditions we have become acquainted with during very recent periods. You seem to overlook the fact that the overhead expense is one of the big factors in merchandising manufactured products. Facts and figures of recent date show that with reduction of working hours and increase in earnings production invariably has been reduced. The problem, therefore, as you lay it out in all figures cannot be successfully solved. Add to these the increased cost of raw materials and the cost of the labor itself, which are figured on the basis of selling prices, and you will surely reach a different conclusion than the one shown in your item. While the writer is not unfavorable to labor and is willing to co-operate with it on all occasions, still he feels that the present unrest in the labor movement is in a great measure to blame for the existing high cost of living. The downward trend of prices can only be started by labor by pushing production to the limit within the agreed upon working hours, and also by declaring a truce on new demands for a period of say a year to come. A MANUFACTURER.
No. 274 West 12th Street, Dec. 26.

For "Direct Action."
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Thank you for your editorial advocating the ordinance compelling horse-owners to provide anti-dip shoes for their horses. It is needed now, and if horse owners will not see the advantage as an economic business investment they must be made to see it because public sentiment and humane sympathy demand it. I believe The Evening World is going to be a big factor in winning a victory this time. The picture of Dec. 19 appeared very strongly to me. On this same day of the past week I helped mix a poor horse to his test. Sent some of their stable and others to the city dump. The old fellow looks like one I helped on Wednesday afternoon. He has even dreamed of those worn, dirty, sharp-edged shoes and has awakened to find it only a dream. Let us as apostles appointed to speak for "fried horses" who cannot speak for himself, so advocate and work for the ordinance in his favor that before another Christmas time his dream shall have become a reality, and we shall see him well shod, walking proudly, safely and soundly. Every man and woman worthy of the name must interfere most devoutly our animal friends, regardless of who owns them. When I meet the brute owner or driver who abuses his horse or compels him to work when he is sick, I tell him the horse is properly cared for. When I take my man to the nearest court, there I point for "fried horses" and after a hard and humane Magistrate has

UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake.

GETTING OUT OF PRISON.

We can usually learn something from anybody. To day we will take a brief course of instruction from the jail-breaker. Once in jail he thinks of little else but how to get out. Every thought, every idea is centered on a means of escape. To the average man the task of sawing through iron bars with a case knife would be appalling. To the jail-breaker it is something that must be done, and consequently can be done. To the man who enjoys the blessings of liberty, the job of tunnelling through a wall, one brick at a time, replacing the mortar and hiding the dust would be too prodigious to contemplate. But the jail-breaker has an incentive. He concentrates all his energies on his own purpose. Nothing deters or daunts him. And often, after performing feats of patience and prodigies of craft, he succeeds. We do not approve of his purpose, but it will pay us to observe his methods. His whole existence has one end and aim—liberty. Everything else is subordinated to it. All other thoughts are shut out. His every waking hour is spent in thought about the task he must achieve. He supplies the best lesson we know of in concentration. And concentration is perhaps the most important lesson we can learn.

There are few of us who are not in some sort of a jail, imposed by our environment. Sometimes it is the jail of poverty. Sometimes it is the jail of failure. Always we are walled in by barriers that shut us out from some goal of our desires. We can penetrate these walls if we are patient and determined. But we shall be neither sufficiently patient nor determined enough unless our will to escape is very strong. Concentration is extremely difficult. It means bending all our energies toward one purpose, rejecting every activity of mind or body which does not directly assist us in what we are trying to do.

No man attains a full measure of success who does not concentrate on the one object he has in life. The jail-breaker has artificial barriers set about him. He is made uncomfortable by his surroundings. He is forced by solitude to concentrate. We who are measurably free have no such barriers. And until we realize that we too are in jail, and that there are bars and doors that shut us from better things we shall never put forth our very best efforts.

Flashes From Around the World

Need for a Pied Piper.
During the war England became infested with rats. They grew to giant sizes, and one campaign to exterminate them had been begun everywhere. In Lancashire thousands have been killed. Five hundred weighing more than one pound each are among the slain in the Widnes district, where 600,000 poisoned baits were dropped, each containing a dead rat. A house rat in Grimsthorpe, Scotland, ate and was half-pounded, and was carried off and one-half inches from tip to tip. Thousands of bodies have been thrown up by the tide in the Humber and Ribbles, proving that the rats, having devoured the poisonous poison, sought relief in the water.

An Airplane Ferry.
The picturesque island of Santa Catalina, Cal., lying between the cities of Los Angeles and the blue Pacific, has a daily airplane ferry, the "Sea Tug," that carries passengers across the miles of sea from Santa Pedro on a twenty-minute schedule.

Where to Find Your Vocation

By Max Watson

Vocational Adviser Re-employment Bureau, N. Y. C.
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(The New York Evening World.)

Below is given an article of The Evening World's Series of Analytical Descriptions of Vocations Suitable to Young Men entering trades and business. Study these carefully, weigh your qualifications, and find the work for which you are best adapted.

Plumber.

1. Opportunities for Entering the Trade.

In this trade, an apprentice is usually termed a helper. The usual age for a boy entering this trade is from seventeen to twenty-one. Since the trade is fairly well unionized, the helper obtains his card from the union and works as a direct assistant to some journeyman plumber. The demand for helpers depends largely upon the amount of construction. The usual time served by a helper is from three to four years, depending upon his age when starting, and upon the demand for journeymen. The helper is required to take an examination conducted by the union, before receiving his journeyman's card. At present, there are a number of openings for boys in this trade, and the demand will be greatly increased, when building construction is once more resumed.

2. Schooling Required.
A common school education is preferable, although the lack of this may be offset by vocational training, in order to become a first class workman, a man should be able to estimate costs and material, figure lengths of pipe for fittings, &c. This requires a fairly good knowledge of arithmetic.

3. Wages.
The wage for a helper is from \$15 to \$18 a week to start. This is increased up to the journeyman's wage of from \$35 to \$40 per week.

4. Type of Boy Best Suited for the Trade.
The plumber's work is hard and very dirty. It requires a strong, active boy with a natural mechanical inclination. He must be resourceful and able to meet new situations.

5. Description of Duties.
(a) Helper—The first duty of the helper is to become acquainted with the tools used, and to keep the journeyman supplied with tools and material. He learns to cut and draw pipe and make minor fittings; he should learn to read drawings, and be able to do simple calculations for cutting lengths of pipe.

(b) Journeyman—Duties of a journeyman are to install and repair all types of plumbing and fixtures.

6. Qualifications Necessary for a Journeyman.
He must be thoroughly acquainted with all types of appliances used in the installation of modern plumbing; should be able to make lead fittings and form connections with all kinds of pipe; must be thoroughly familiar with the sanitary regulations; should be able to read drawings and figure work from building plans; he should be able to do simple calculations for cutting lengths of pipe.

7. Remarks.
A boy entering the plumbing trade has the possibility of becoming a foreman, or even a boss plumber, providing he is willing to apply himself and acquire the necessary skill and information. Courses in plumbing are given in various trade schools of the city, and can also be secured at a nominal cost in a considerable number of semi-public vocational and trade schools. This is a trade which demands considerable study of modern methods and special technical work, which will be of great assistance in helping the boy to advance.

Gas Treatment for Influenza.
Dr. Alexander Greger, Health Officer for Falmouth, England, thinks influenza may be prevented by the use of gases, and is now making careful investigation along that line. He noticed that the employees in gas works did not suffer from influenza, hence his suggestion that gases might be used as a preventive. In collaboration with Dr. Benjamin Moore, he devised a method for the slow and safe discharge of nitrogen peroxide at a concentration of 10 for breathing, and of other gases, such as sulphur dioxide, nitric acid and acetone. It was found, according to a report in The Journal of the American Medical Association, that exposure to these gases causes a great diminution in the growth of bacteria obtained from the throats and noses of patients.

During an outbreak of influenza, a camp effort was made to disinfect the men en masse with nitrogen peroxide, which was generated by placing strips of copper in nitric acid, and the strength of the gas was regulated so that the odor was not so irritating or disagreeable. The men were kept in the gas for ten minutes, and of the 100 so treated none complained of any distress or ill after-effects. The result was said to be satisfactory, though the battalion was quarantined for four days and the patients recovered without feeling any discomfort from the gas. No other case of influenza occurred among the men who had received the preventive treatment.